

# Bandwagon

Vol. 5—No. 4 MAY, 1950

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## DISTRICT NUMBER ONE MEETS WITH MILLS BROS.

District No. 1, of the Circus Historical Society, met with Mills Bros. 3-Ring Circus at their opening in Circleville, Ohio, Saturday, April 15th. Mills Bros. program proved the most outstanding of their eleven years on the road and has been strengthened by many outstanding acts as announced in the April issue of BANDWAGON.

The all-new white canvas was a beautiful sight to behold and with clear skies cameras clicked both inside and out of the Big Top. All members of the division along with members of CFA and the Model Builders were guests of Jack and Jake Mills at their press banquet following the afternoon performance.

Rev. Doc Waddell, Mills Bros. Circus Chaplain, was made Honorary Chaplain of the Circus Historical Society prior to the opening spec and was presented with his membership card by Robert C. King, secretary of the society.

CHS members present included Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conover, Albert Conover, Sally Conover, Jackie Conover, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. King, Ann King, Mr. and Mrs. Donald DeWees, Chalmer Condon, Clarence Shank, Richard Schwartz, George Piercy, Don Howland, Floyd McClintock, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wixom, Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Simpson and Michael Simpson.

Others included Cecil D. Scott and son, Tom and Winnie Gregory, Lloyd Bender, Glenn F. Bush, Clifford W. Krueger, George Duffey, Victor C. Thomas, F. A. Carpenter, Jack Sweetman and Col. Tony Diano.

## CORRECT TOWN— WRONG DATE

Two well-known circus fans made a slight error this month . . . 82 miles to be correct and they told me not to pass this on, so, don't tell anyone. Johnny Vogelsang, of Niles, Mich., and Otto Schiemann, of South Bend, Ind., journeyed to Defiance, O., on May 13th to catch King Bros. Circus and found that they were one day ahead of King Bros. route. After checking the BILLBOARD they headed for Findley, O., an additional 82 miles . . . both agree it was worth it . . . they had perfect weather for pictures and witnessed an outstanding program headed by the Cristiani Family and Jane King. Others on the lot included Franklin Ronk, William Lerche and your editor.

Johnny Vogelsang, George Piercy, Robert C. King, Chalmer Condon and Otto Schiemann caught Biller Bros. at Frankfort, Ind., April 22nd. They were photographed by the Frankfort newspaper for a future feature story.



# The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the  
**CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Founded in 1939

HARRY M. SIMPSON.....EDITOR

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Titus.

## MANY THANKS

I wish to thank the many mem-  
bers who sent me cards during  
the holiday season. I am unable  
to write you and take this means  
to express my appreciation for  
your thoughtfulness.

—James Livingston.

Dusty Rhoades, of Oshkosh,  
Wisc., caught Cole Bros. Circus  
recently at Chicago and visited  
with Billie Burk, Terrell Jacobs,  
Con Colleano and others.

Rhoades reports their program  
was outstanding.

## MANY THANKS

I wish to sincerely thank the  
members and friends for their  
lovely cards, telegrams, gifts and  
beautiful flowers that I received  
while at the hospital and at home.  
They were appreciated more than  
words can ever express.

—Bette Leonard.

Mr. and Mrs. Herm Linden, of  
Aurora, Ill., caught the opening  
of Ayres and Kathryn Davies Cir-  
cus at Dixon, Ill., April 20th.  
They also caught Polack Bros.  
Western unit at Chicago.

Willard T. Northrop has pub-  
lished another issue of his fine  
publication "The American Blare."  
The publication is free and con-  
tains many circus articles.

## CHALMER CONDON ELECTED DIRECTOR OF DIVISION ONE

Chalmer Condon, popular CHS  
member and outstanding collec-  
tor from Logansport, Ind., was  
elected director of Division One  
of the Circus Historical Society  
at a recent mail election. Con-  
don will replace Dr. Harrison  
Powers, of South Bend, Ind., who  
recently resigned the position be-  
cause of ill health.

Dr. Powers was one of the hard-  
est working directors in the entire  
Society and all regret that health  
forced him to give up a position  
that he had served so well.

C. H. "Dad" White has re-  
turned home after a trip that took  
him to the West Coast and a visit  
on the Clyde Beatty Circus, back  
to Chicago for Cole Bros. and a  
day at Chanute, Kansas, with  
Dailey Bros. Circus. "Dad" White  
writes that he is mighty tired but  
we all know that he will be back  
on the road after a short rest . . .  
like all troupers, you can't keep  
them home when the shows are  
on the road.



## LETTERS REVEAL HISTORY OF WALTER L. MAIN CIRCUS

Walter L. Main,  
Geneva, Ohio.

Dear Sir:—

Having read in Pictorial Magazine in yesterdays Cleveland Plain Dealer about the opening of the winterquarters at Geneva, O., Feb. 1, 1900 . . 50 years ago. I wondered if you knew where your show, or I should say the horses wintered in 1885 or 1886.

I was a youngster living with my parents, brothers and sisters, about one mile from Trumbull Center, Astabula county, seven miles from Geneva and seven miles from Rock Creek, and the farm we lived on was next to where they kept the horses of the MAIN Show. I remember, when we children went past to school, we would try and get a glimpse of the beautiful horses, at least two of them were white. Dan Rice and Grant were their names. My father being a harness maker made either harness or bridles for the two white horses, and what a thrill, when they brought the two prancing horses down to our house to try the harness or bridles on. I don't remember if he made harness for any of the

other horses, but those two have always been in my memory and when I would see your show advertised, would intend to write, but never knew where to send it. About fifteen years ago I went back up there, but there were very few places that I could recognize, as like every place else, changes have been made. Just wanted to write these few lines and get it off my chest.

Truly yours,  
Mrs. H. R. Brown,  
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Mrs. H. R. Brown,  
New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Dear Madam:—

Am mailing your nice letter, of recent date, to BANDWAGON Camden, O., which, no doubt, they will publish.

Fall of 1885, Main Family resided at Trumbull Center, Ohio, but lightning struck the barn while the show was playing Fairs, so, we dismantled the old barn and erected it on Burdick farm on State Road. Tent was 50 ft. in diameter. Trained stock was Dan Rice, who would play dead and picked out handsomest man and homeliest woman in audience; ponies, Grant and Tony 'at seesaw.' 4 plug-horses moved outfit. Feature was "Wild Man" (from Footville, Ohio).

Biography of Walter L. Main Circus will be written in near future. 1903 Show was second largest in United States.

Yours kindly,  
Walter L. Main.

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Complete coverage of RB&BB quarters taken during 6-week stay. Black and White plus beautiful color. 15c for sample view and complete list.

**DYER M. REYNOLDS**

197 East Ave.

Pawtucket, R.I.

Dyer M. Reynolds, of Pawtucket, R.I., recently returned from a visit to Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey Circus winterquarters at Sarasota, Fla. Reynolds took many fine, clear photos during this visit and offers them for sale in this issue.



**CHARLES B. KISTLER  
APPOINTED DIRECTOR**



Charles B. Kistler

Charles B. Kistler, of Allentown, Pa., and one of the most active circus collectors, has been appointed director of division No. 3 of the Circus Historical Society. Kistler fills the vacancy of H. L. Symons who recently resigned.

**CHS CONVENTION AT  
CHICAGO, AUG. 4-5-6**

The fourth annual convention of the Circus Historical Society will be held in Chicago, Ill., August 4-5-6. Headquarters will be announced at an early date. Although the program is not complete at this time a circus is expected to be playing Chicago at that time. It is advisable to make your hotel reservations early.

Chicago is an ideal convention city with many places of interest to visit. The Railroad Fair will be showing during the convention and many small circuses play near Chicago during the summer months.

Bette and Fred Leonard caught the Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros. Circus recently and report they really have a "classic." One of the many features is their Hippo, "Miss Oklahoma" that walks around the track by herself. Another feature is the fine "Baby Bull" act worked by Col. H. Woodcock. Other CHS members on the lot included Mr. and Mrs. Dana Stevens, Ione Stevens, Jimmy Hamiter and Bill Woodcock.

**MRS. LENA OLZENDAM**

We regret to report the death of Lena Olzendam, wife of CHS member Dr. E. N. Olzendam, of Manchester, N.H. Mrs. Olzendam passed away April 17th, with burial at Manchester. All members join in extending sympathy to Dr. Olzendam.

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**LINDEN STUDIOS**

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PICTURES NOW

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and Circus Fans

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